2010-2011 Legislative Issues and Strategies – Final Results

Exceptional Item Request – Authorization to spend appropriations (Fund 5064)
The $15 million/year funding increase approved by legislature last session was not appropriated for expenditure. TFS requested expenditure authority through an LAR exceptional item request.
Status: Legislature appropriated the additional $15 million/yr.

Exceptional Item Request – Texas Wildfire Protection Plan
TFS requested $7,000,000/year in new funding from Fund 036 as an LAR exceptional item request to expand TWPP beyond pilot program funding.
Status: Legislature appropriated an increase of $3,500,000/yr.

Authorization to spend $5 million/year of increased Fund 5064 on TWPP Implementation
Proposed by Rep. Swinford in a rider last session and filed a bill this session making it a statutorily authorized use of Fund 5064.
Status: Legislature passed HB4002 authorizing TFS to use $5 million/yr from Fund 5064 for its TWPP.

Exceptional Item Request – Fund 5066
The recent revenue history for Fund 5066 supported an increase of $250,000 in the spending cap. To request the appropriation of these funds, TFS was required to submit it as an exceptional item in the LAR.
Status: Legislature appropriated the additional $250,000/yr.

Exchange of Fairchild State Forest acreage with Private Landowner
TFS sought approval to exchange a non-contiguous parcel of the Fairchild State Forest for a comparable piece of acreage adjacent to the main body of the forest.
Status: Legislature passed HB3340 (Hopson) which authorizes the swap.

Transfer of Fire Department Emergency Program from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) to TFS
The Sunset Advisory Commission report recommended transferring grant program operated by TCFP to TFS.
Status: Legislature passed SB1011 (Estes), which requires transfer of the grant program to TFS by January 1, 2010.

Emergency Appropriation
TFS submitted Supplemental Appropriation requests to cover emergency response bills (fires, hurricanes, etc.) for 2008 and 2009.
Status: Legislature passed the Supplemental Appropriations bill (HB4586), which included $31,932,648 for TFS. This will cover the 2008 fires, hurricanes and floods and most of the 2009 fire bills. We currently estimate an $8.2 million shortfall to cover the 2009 fire bills.

Other Bills of Interest
Sunset Review
Status: Legislature passed HB1959 (Isett) during special session. This bill placed TFS under sunset review for the next biennium. The process has already begun.